

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 March 2006. It was the 210<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair	CSM William Jolley
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM James W. Harris
COL William E. Crouch	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc. Sec
COL James E. Hyers	SGM Samuel V. MacMaster
LTC Clarence R. Collins	1SG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Stanley S. Heath	CSM Charles E. Frye
LTC James R. Mellish	1SG Jackie Ray
	SFC Joseph N. Barnes

ADVISORS PRESENT

CCL Susan Denny, CDR LAHC	Mr. George W. Steuber, DGC
Ms. Deborah Seimer, AG	Ms. Diane Snodgrass, AAFES Manager
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	Ms. Lisa Eichhorn, PAO
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary Manager	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO

2. COL Bunting called the meeting to order at 1135 and reported that CSM Frye's wife was having surgery today.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business - None
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Public Affairs - SGM MacMaster handed out Post Monthly Calendars. Attention was called to the Travel Extravaganza on 7 March. COL Bunting mentioned the ROTC Rifle and Drill Competition 4 March. It was noted that PAO had included the Horse Trials for this weekend.

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b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported that President Bush's 2007 proposed budget included doubling the cost of TRICARE Prime for military retirees under the age of 65. The cost of prescription drugs would also increase for everyone except active duty personnel. Legislator Fillmore is proposing that any increase in TRICARE Prime or prescription drugs be limited to the previous year's COLA percentage increase. Having attended a TRICARE conference, COL Denny reported costs have increased to the point where something has to be done or we stand a chance of the program going under. COL Bunting recommended that everyone retain membership in service organizations to have a voice in Washington.

c. Health Care - LTC Collins reported a blood drive from 0800 - 1600, 3 March, with blood collected remaining within the military community. CSM Harris asked that issues about the clinic be brought to him for action. The clinic has a new pediatrician, third family practitioner and an orthopedic physician's assistant starting soon. Some interior painting and decorating work is being done to improve the clinic's appearance. COL Denny's change-of-command is scheduled for 27 May 2006.

d. Volunteers Program - SFC Barnes sent a report that Jeanine Stancil was Volunteer of the Month for March.

e. Consolidated Club System - LTC Allen reported the club system is trying to put out a good product. The manager is now responsible for the catering. The next Prime Rib night is scheduled for 25 March 2006.

f. Commissary – See Mr. O'Meara's comments.

g. PX - See advisors report.

h. Golf Course - No Report.

i. Equestrian Center - Mr. Laster stated 83 entrants including one from Canada were registered for the Horse Trials this weekend.

j. Outdoor Recreation - No report.

k. Bowling Alley – Everything is operating well.

l. RAD - No report.

6. Advisors Comments –

a. Ms. Snodgrass brought fliers of AAFES sales events. She reported a "Vendor Bazaar" in front of the PX on March 17 - 18 along with a sidewalk sale. The Garden Center is fully stocked except for bedding plants which should arrive in about 10 days.

Murray has gone out of business so Briggs and Stratton will be servicing lawn mowers needing warranty work.

b. Mr. O'Meara stated no merchandise was lost during the power outage last month. Coca-Cola has reduced prices on water. March is "Frozen Food" month and there are savings on these items. A case lot sale takes place 12-13 May 2006.

c. Mr. Laster reported the construction on the golf course cart paths should be starting soon. Construction on the irrigation system should start within 30 days. This work will close 9 holes at a time but the course will remain open. Nine "Tee" boxes are under construction with some still available for sponsorship. The cost to sponsor a "Tee" box is \$750.

d. Ms. Seimer reported that all of Ft. Rucker's "CAC" cards are being replaced to allow the bearer to access computers in the near future. These will be issued by unit or directorate each Monday through Friday from 0800-1030 until completed.

e. Mr. Steuber congratulated Mr. Laster for the improvements that have been made at the Aviators' Landing and the Silver Wings Golf Course. If active duty personnel do not keep family quarters fully occupied, they could be rented to retirees and DOD civilians in order to maximize occupancy.

7. New Business - None.

8. Co-Chairman's Comments - Willie Nelson will be in concert at the Ozark Civic Center on 5 April 2006.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1210. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 6 April 2006 at 1130.

Approved via email 7 MAR 06

BCB BUNTING

CCL, Retired

Co-Chairman

Not Available for Signature

CHARLES E. FRYE

CSM, Retired

Co-Chairman

Approved via email 7 MAR 06

LLOYD M. ROGERS

SGM, Retired

Association Secretary

Original Signed

WILLIAM S. LARESE

CCL, Aviation

Garrison Commander